

Message Text

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15

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15 STR-08

CEA-02 AGR-20 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 TAR-02 /160 W
----- 014205

R 090301 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7193

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: BEXP, ETRD

SUBJECT/ ROK PURCHASING MISSION TO THE US

REF: A. STATE 056307 B. TAIPEI 1920 C. TAIPEI 1921

1. MINISTRY COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY CURRENTLY PLANNING ON PURCHAING MISSION TO UNITED STATES TO BE HEADED BY ASSISTANT MINISTER SUH YOUNG CHUL, TO DEPART AROUND MAY 10 AND TO REMAIN ABOUT MONTH.

2. WE ARE PRESSING FOR MORE DETAILS BUT THESE NOT AVAILABLE APPARENTLY BECAUSE MINISTRY HAS NOT YET DECIDED ON SUCH BASICS AS MISSION COMPOSITION, ITINERARY AND PURPOSES.

3. MINISTRY OFFICIALS CONCERNED ARE STRUGGLING WITH PROBLEM OF DEVELOPING LISTS OF U. S. COMMODITIES WHICH KOREA COULD IMPORT IN GREATER AMOUNT POSSIBLY BY SHIFTING FROM JAPAN AS SOURCE. WE HAVE TRIED TO BE HELPFUL BY PROVIDING OUR OWN LISTS, INCLUDING THOSE DEVELOPED IN MARKET RESEARCH FOR USIME II & III.

4. MINISTRY WAS ADVISED OF GENERAL NATURE OF TAIWAN PURCHASING MISSION (REF B & C) AND OFFICIALS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CLASS-

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IFICATION OF GOODS RESTRICTED FOR IMPORT FROM NORTH AMERICA ONLY,
AND NORTH AMERICA PLUS EUROPE ONLY. THEY WERE CONCERNED,
HOWEVER,
AT POSSIBLE JAPANESE REACTION TO ADOPTION SIMILAR CLASSIFICATIONS
BY KOREA.

5. MINISTRY HOPES THAT PURCHASING MISSION CAN AWAKEN U. S.
SUPPLIER INTEREST IN KOREAN MARKET. KOREANS WILL ALSO BE PUSHING
POSSIBILITY OF U. S./ KOREAN JOINT VENTURES AS PARTIAL OFFSET TO
INCREASING NUMBER SMALL SCALE JAPANESE VENTURES WHICH INVOLVE
JAPANESE EXPORT OF MATERIALS FOR MANUFACTURE IN KOREA AND FINAL
EXPORT FREQUENTLY TO U. S.

6. EMBASSY FRANKLY SKEPTICAL OF EFFECTIVENESS OF PURCHASING
MISSION IN BRINGING ABOUT IMPORTANT INCREASE IN U. S. EXPORTS TO
THIS MARKET, BUT THIS IS INITIATIVE WE CANNOT BUT ENCOURAGE,
EXPECIALLY IN VIEW OF TAIWAN MISSION PRECEDENT. FURTHERMORE,
ASSOCIATED EXAMINATION OF KOREAN TRADE PATTERNS WILL BE HELPFUL
IN DETERMINING BEST TYPES OF FUTURE U. S. COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY.
KOREAN OFFICIALS, FOR INSTANCE, ALREADY SUGGESTING FORMATION OF
RETURN U. S. TRADE MISSIONS IN AREAS WHICH KOREAN MISSION
IDENTIFIES AS HOLDING PROMISE FOR TRADE INCREASE.

7. EMBASSY APPRECIATES INFORMATION SO FAR PROVIDED ON TAIWAN
MISSION. EARLY REACTION FROM COMMERCE ON SUCCESSES AND FAILURES
OF THAT MISSION WILL ASSIST FINAL STAGES OF PLANNING HERE FOR
KOREAN MISSION.

HABIB

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SEOUL02139
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730437/aaaahzxz.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION COM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 056307, 73 TAIPEI 1920, 73 TAIPEI 1921
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Nov-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <14-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971212
Subject: / ROK PURCHASING MISSION TO THE US
TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, KS
To: AIT TAIPEI
COME
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005